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STATE OF
SOUTH DAKOTA
OFFICE OF THE
ATTORNEY GENERAL
DIVISION OF
CRIMINAL
INVESTIGATION

CRIME IN SOUTH DAKOTA 1987

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS CENTER

CRIME
IN
SOUTH DAKOTA
1987

Statistical Analysis Center
Division of Criminal Investigation
Office of the Attorney General
Criminal Justice Training Center
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

Marissa E. Schatz
Donald E. Gromer

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CRIME IN SOUTH DAKOTA:

For over 50 years, the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program has served as the national clearinghouse for crimes reported to city, county, and state law enforcement agencies. In South Dakota, the information compiled by UCR contributors is forwarded directly to the FBI from the local law enforcement agency. Currently there is no state-level UCR Program in South Dakota to act as the intermediary between the FBI and its local contributors. The crime data used in this report were taken from the FBI's publication of "Crime in the United States, 1987". These data were analyzed and interpreted by the South Dakota Statistical Analysis Center at the Division of Criminal Investigation.

This annual report of Crime in South Dakota, 1987, presents data on reported crime in South Dakota during calendar year 1987, and examines crime trends experienced in South Dakota during the past ten years (1978-1987).

It is important to note certain constraints which should be recognized in interpreting and drawing conclusions from the data herein. Law Enforcement agencies covering approximately 71 percent of the state's population participate in the national UCR Program. Therefore, the FBI must scientifically estimate crime counts for the non-participating jurisdictions. Using the known crime experiences of similar areas within a state, the estimates are computed by assigning the same proportional crime volumes to non-reporting agencies.

Another limitation in crime reporting practices concerns the question of how much crime is actually being reported. Law enforcement agencies are capable only of reporting crimes known to them. In many instances, citizens do not report crimes directly to these agencies but may report them to the prosecuting authorities. A considerable volume of crime is never reported to law enforcement agencies because the victims may consider the offenses against them to be of little consequence; they may believe there is nothing the police can do about them; or they may fear retaliation from the offender. Consequently, information concerning some offenses is never entered into the present statistical reporting system.

In spite of these limitations the information presented in this report portrays the most accurate and realistic assessment of crime in South Dakota. In reporting offenses to the Uniform Crime Reporting Program, offenses are classified according to standard definitions (given in later sections of the report) that are used throughout the nation. The UCR definitions are designed to insure that offenses with different titles under the laws of the various states are appropriately classified and counted under the UCR Program without regard to findings of courts or juries, since the statistics are gathered primarily to assist in identifying areas of concern to law enforcement officers, and not meant to reflect the outcomes of inquests, hearings, or trials.

CRIME FACTORS:

The presence of crime in our state's communities is a serious concern not only of the law enforcement profession, but of society at large. A number of factors affecting the volume and type of crime that occurs from place to place have been described. Some of these are as follows:

Population density and size of locality and its surrounding area

Variation in composition of the population, particularly age structure

Stability of population with respect to residents' mobility and transient factors

Economic conditions, including job availability

Cultural conditions, such as educational, recreational, and religious characteristics

Climate

Effective strength of law enforcement agencies

Administrative and investigative emphases of law enforcement

Policies of other components of the criminal justice system (i.e., prosecutorial, judicial, correctional and probational)

Attitudes of citizenry toward crime

Crime reporting practices of the citizenry

These and other crime influencing factors are present, to some degree, in every community, and their presence affects, in varying degrees, the crime experience of that community. Attempts at comparison of crime figures between communities should not be made without first considering the individual factors present in each community.

THE CRIME INDEX:

The Crime Index is used as a basic measure of crime. The crimes were selected for use as an index on the basis of their serious nature, their frequency of occurrence, and the reliability of reporting from citizens to law enforcement agencies.

Seven crimes make up the UCR's Crime Index. The offenses of murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault are categorized as violent crimes. The offenses of burglary, larceny/theft, and motor vehicle theft are classed as property crimes. The crime index is the total of these offenses that come to the attention of law enforcement agencies.

The total number of criminal acts that occur is unknown, but those that are reported to the police provide the first means of a count. Not all crimes come readily to the attention of the police; not all crimes are of sufficient importance to be significant in an index; and not all crimes occur with enough regularity to be meaningful in an index. With these considerations in mind, and with all state and national reporting jurisdictions using uniform reporting procedures, the above crimes were selected as a group to furnish an abbreviated and convenient measure of the crime problem.

The crime counts used in the crime index and set forth in this publication are based on actual offenses established and determined by police investigation. When a law enforcement agency receives a complaint of a criminal matter and the follow-up investigation discloses no crime occurred it is "unfounded". These "unfounded" complaints are eliminated from the actual crime count. The FBI has also established a hierarchy rule, such that in the event more than one crime is committed within a single instance only the most serious crime is reported.

DEGREE OF SERIOUSNESS:

The Crime Index does not explicitly take into account the varying degrees of seriousness of its components. Each crime receives the same weight as it is added to the Index. Consequently, an auto theft is counted the same as a murder, and an aggravated assault is weighted equally with an attempted burglary. Any review of crime must consider the volume, rate and trend of each offense that comprises the Index and the relationship between these crimes.

CRIME RATE:

Crime rates represent the rate of crime in relation to the population of a given jurisdiction. The rates are calculated to provide agencies with a means of measuring the magnitude of the crime problem that exists in relation to the number of people who reside in their jurisdiction. Crime rates allow the comparison of the volume of crime in different jurisdictions having different populations.

It should be noted that the rate only takes into consideration the numerical factor of population and does not incorporate any of the other elements which contribute to the amount of crime in a given community. The effect of changes in population on rates should be kept in mind when attempting to make a comparison of crime rates.

All crime rates presented in this report are per 100,000 population. Crime rates are calculated by dividing the number of offenses by the population and multiplying the results by 100,000.

THE 1987 SUMMARY:

The National Crime Index total rose two percent to 13.5 million offenses in 1987, but crime declined in South Dakota from 1986 to 1987. The state's percentage decreased 1.3 percent (Figure 1). There were 18,987 Part I offenses reported by South Dakota law enforcement agencies in 1987. This was the first time in three years that crime declined in South Dakota (Figure 2 & 3). A total of 15 states experienced crime decreases in 1987.

The state crime rate continues to be significantly lower than the national average (Figure 4). The crime rate in South Dakota during 1987 was 2,678.0 per 100,000 population, while the rate for the nation was 5,550.0 per 100,000. In fact, South Dakota ranked 49th out of the 50 states in the total Crime Index rate (Figure 5). West Virginia was the only state in the nation to have a lower overall crime rate than South Dakota.

South Dakota compared favorably with the contiguous states of Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, and Wyoming (Figure 6). South Dakota's overall crime rate was the lowest of all the contiguous states. Generally, North Dakota was the only one of the seven contiguous states to have a lower crime rate for the separate offenses than South Dakota. The one notable exception was the rape rate. South Dakota had the fourth-highest rape rate of any of the surrounding states at 20.6 per 100,000. Minnesota's rate of 33.9 rapes per 100,000 was the highest for the contiguous states.

Figure 1

COMPARISON OF PART I CRIMES
IN SOUTH DAKOTA, 1986 AND 1987

	NUMBER OF CRIMES			RATE PER 100,000		
	1986	1987	CHANGE	1986	1987	CHANGE
Crime Index Total	19,229	18,987	-1.3%	2,716.0	2,678.0	-1.4%
Violent Crime	883	849	-3.9%	124.7	119.7	-4.0%
Property Crime	18,346	18,138	-1.1%	2,591.2	2,558.3	-1.3%
Murder	28	13	-53.6%	4.0	1.8	-55.0%
Rape	125	146	+16.8%	17.7	20.6	+16.4%
Robbery	115	87	-24.3%	16.2	12.3	-24.1%
Aggravated Assault	615	603	-2.0%	86.9	85.0	-2.2%
Burglary	3,919	3,787	-3.4%	553.5	534.1	-3.5%
Larceny/Theft	13,728	13,673	-.4%	1,939.0	1,928.5	-.5%
Motor Vehicle Theft	699	678	-3.0%	98.7	95.6	-3.1%

Figure 2

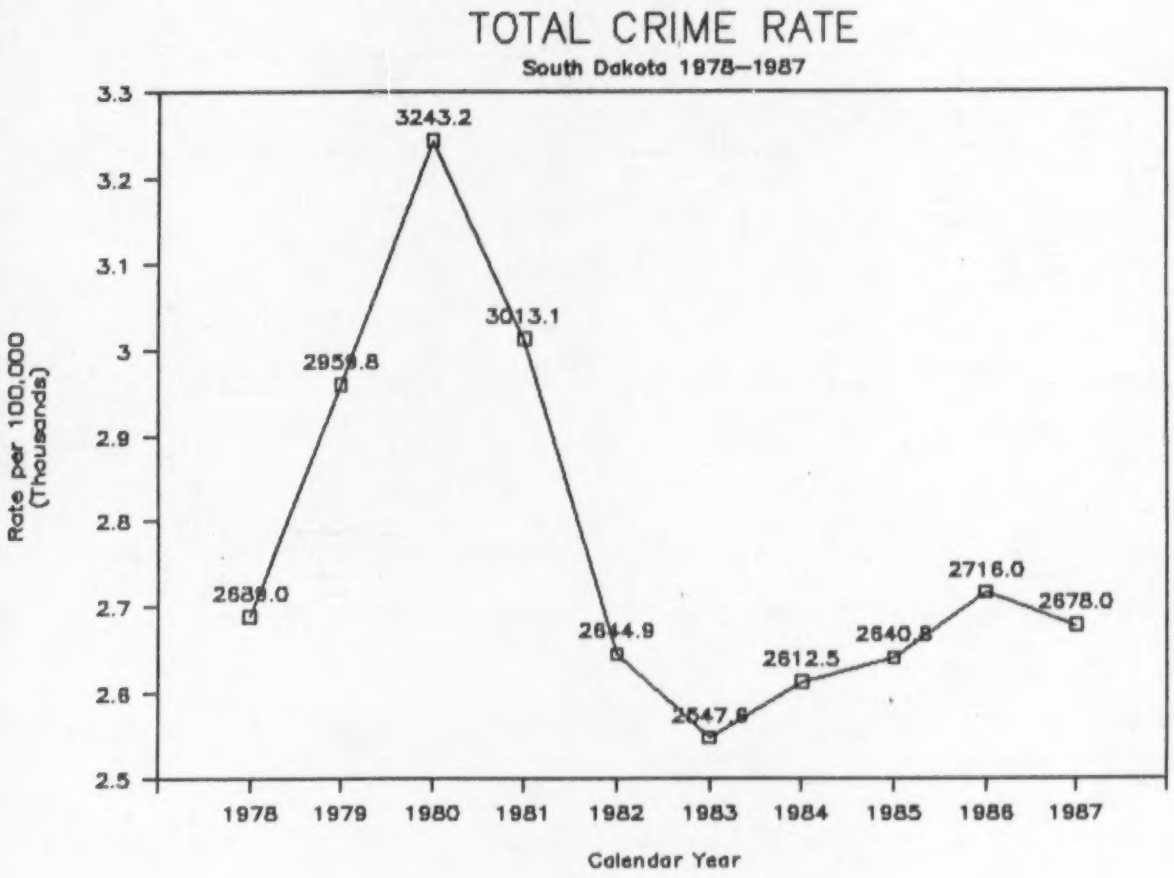

TOTAL CRIME RATE
South Dakota 1978–1987
Rate per 100,000 (Thousands)
3.3
3.2
3.1
3
2.9
2.8
2.7
2.6
2.5
3243.2
3013.1
2644.9
2612.5
2640.8
2716.0
2678.0
1978
1979
1980
1981
1982
1983
1984
1985
1986
1987
Calendar Year

Figure 3

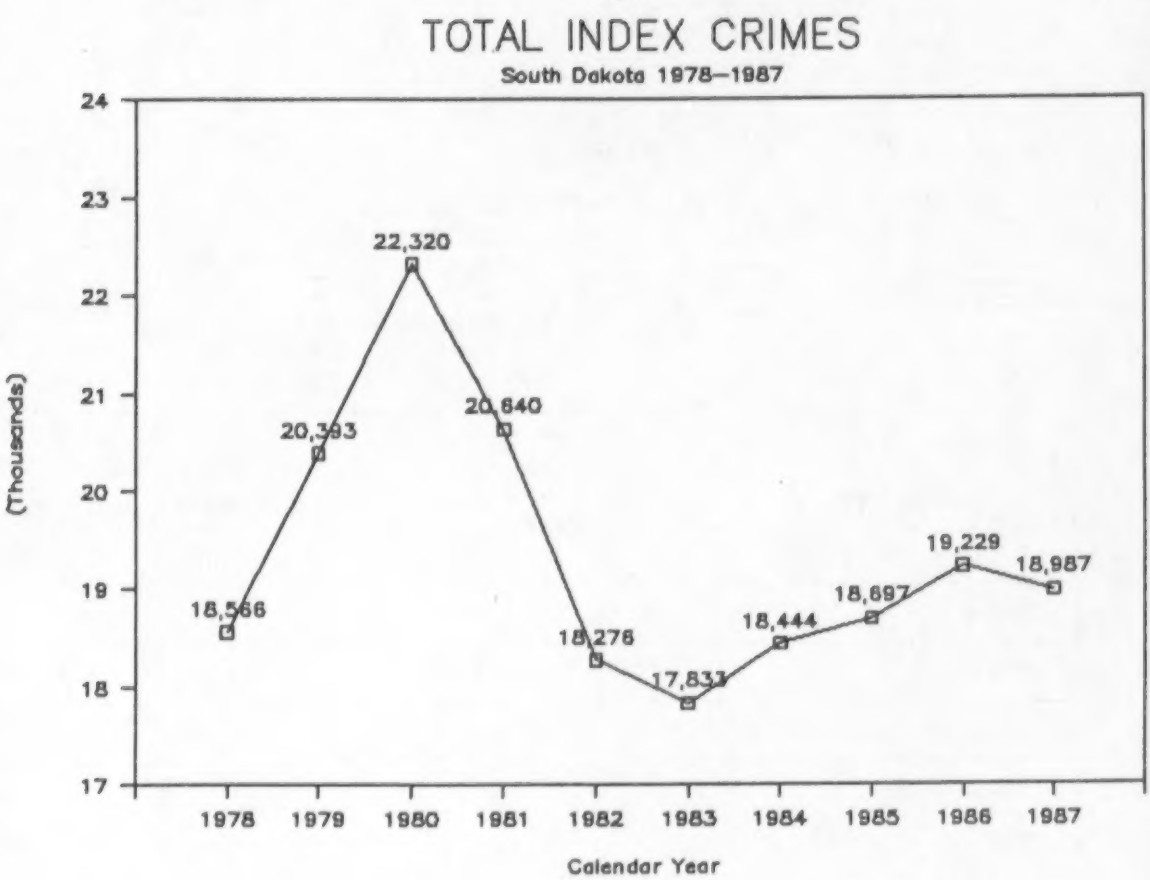

TOTAL INDEX CRIMES
South Dakota 1978–1987
(Thousands)
24
23
22
21
20
19
18
17
22,320
20,393
20,640
18,566
18,278
17,833
18,444
18,697
19,229
18,987
1978
1979
1980
1981
1982
1983
1984
1985
1986
1987
Calendar Year

Figure 4

COMPARISON OF 1987 CRIME RATES PER 100,000
BETWEEN SOUTH DAKOTA AND THE NATION

	SOUTH DAKOTA	THE NATION
Crime Index Total	2,678.0	5,550.0
Violent Crime	119.7	609.7
Property Crime	2,558.3	4,940.3
Murder	1.8	8.3
Rape	20.6	37.4
Robbery	12.3	212.7
Aggravated Assault	85.0	351.3
Burglary	534.1	1,329.6
Larceny/Theft	1,928.5	3,081.3
Motor Vehicle Theft	95.6	529.4

Figure 5

COMPARISON OF 1987 CRIME RATES PER 100,000
BETWEEN SOUTH DAKOTA AND ALL OTHER STATES

South Dakota ranks 49th in the Total Crime Index Rate

South Dakota ranks 49th in the Violent Crime Rate

South Dakota ranks 49th in the Property Crime Rate

South Dakota ranks 49th in the Murder Rate

South Dakota ranks 44th in the Rape Rate

South Dakota ranks 49th in the Robbery Rate

South Dakota ranks 48th in the Aggravated Assault Rate

South Dakota ranks 49th in the Burglary Rate

South Dakota ranks 46th in the Larceny/Theft Rate

South Dakota ranks 50th in the Motor Vehicle Theft Rate

Figure 6

1987 CRIME RATES IN THE CONTIGUOUS STATES
(Rates per 100,000)

	IOWA	MINNESOTA	MONTANA	NEBRASKA	NORTH DAKOTA	SOUTH DAKOTA	WYOMING
Crime Index Total	4,140.2	4,615.8	4,599.4	4,131.6	2,833.0	2,678.0	4,031.2
Violent Crime	231.2	285.4	151.2	251.2	56.8	119.7	283.1
Property Crime	3,909.0	4,330.4	4,448.2	3,880.4	2,776.2	2,558.3	3,748.2
Murder	2.1	2.6	4.1	3.5	1.5	1.8	2.0
Rape	11.9	33.9	19.8	21.6	9.4	20.6	31.4
Robbery	36.2	102.5	24.2	47.1	7.6	12.3	20.0
Aggravated Assault	181.1	146.3	103.1	179.0	38.4	85.0	229.6
Burglary	917.8	1,068.9	806.1	847.9	455.4	534.1	717.6
Larceny/Theft	2,840.1	2,960.1	3,404.3	2,866.5	2,197.6	1,928.5	2,892.0
Motor Vehicle Theft	151.1	301.4	237.8	165.9	123.2	95.6	138.6

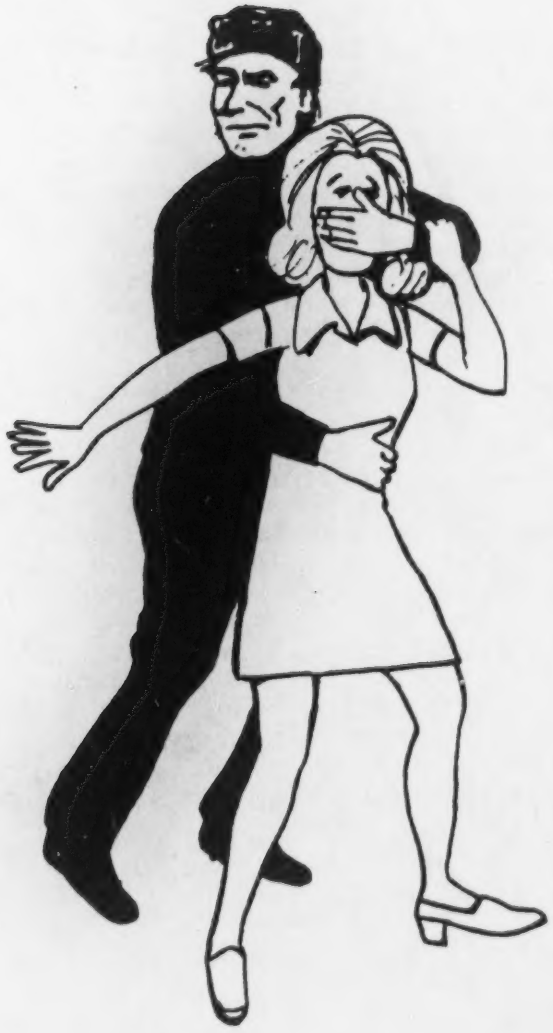
DISTRIBUTION OF INDEX OFFENSES:

During 1987, a total of 18,987 Crime Index offenses were reported or known to South Dakota law enforcement agencies. By far, the bulk of all offenses reported in 1987 were property crimes. These totaled 18,138 or 95.5 percent of the total Index. Larceny/theft alone accounted for 72 percent of the total Crime Index in 1987 and 75 percent of all property crimes. As a group, violent crimes were responsible for 4.5 percent of the Crime Index total.

Given the larger volume of property crimes, any change noted in the Crime Index, as a whole, is primarily a result of the direction the property crimes take. For instance, violent crimes fell by 3.9 percent from 1986 to 1987 and the property crime totals fell by 1.1 percent, the resulting Crime Index total fell by only 1.3 percent for the year. Clearly the decrease in total index crime is largely influenced by the decrease for the property crimes.

VIOLENT

CRIME



VIOLENT CRIMES:

> For UCR purposes, Violent Crime consists of the sum total of murders, rapes, robberies, and aggravated assaults reported to law enforcement. Violent crimes involve the element of personal confrontation between the victim and offender, and because of their nature, are generally considered to be more serious than the property crimes.

With the exception of robbery, one violent crime is counted for each person victimized. In the instance of robbery, each act or operation is counted as one offense as it is added to the crime total.

Violent crime decreased in South Dakota in 1987 after making significant increases in 1983 and 1984 (see Figures 7 & 8). There were 849 crimes of violence reported or known to South Dakota law enforcement agencies in 1987. This represents a drop of 3.9 percent from the 1986 total of 883 crimes. The decrease in violent crime for South Dakota corresponds with the .3 percent decrease in violent crime nationwide from 1986 to 1987. Thirty-three states across the country experienced a decline in violent crime. South Dakota was one of the those thirty-three states to have fewer violent crimes reported for calendar year 1987.

Only one of the four elements which make up the violent crime total rose from 1986 to 1987. Rapes increased from 125 in 1986 to 146 in 1987. This represents a 16.8 percent increase in rape for the period.

Aggravated assault, robbery, and murder decreased in 1987. Aggravated assault fell by 2.0 percent, robbery decreased by 24.3 percent, and murder dropped by 53.6% in 1987.

The national rate of violent crimes per 100,000 population was 609.7 for 1987. The violent crime rate in South Dakota was significantly lower than the national average. The state's violent crime rate of 119.7 per 100,000 population ranked 49th among the 50 states. North Dakota had a lower rate of violent crime per 100,000 population.

Figure 7

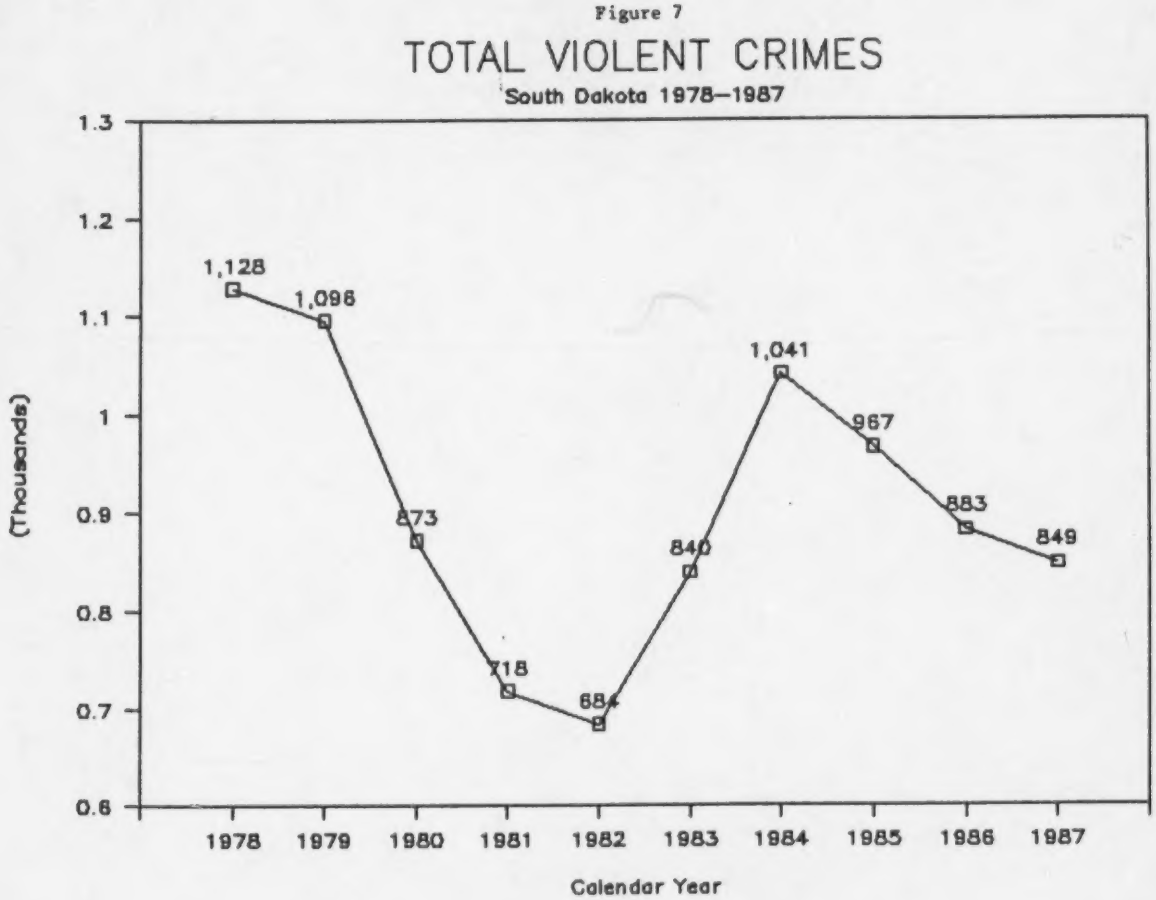
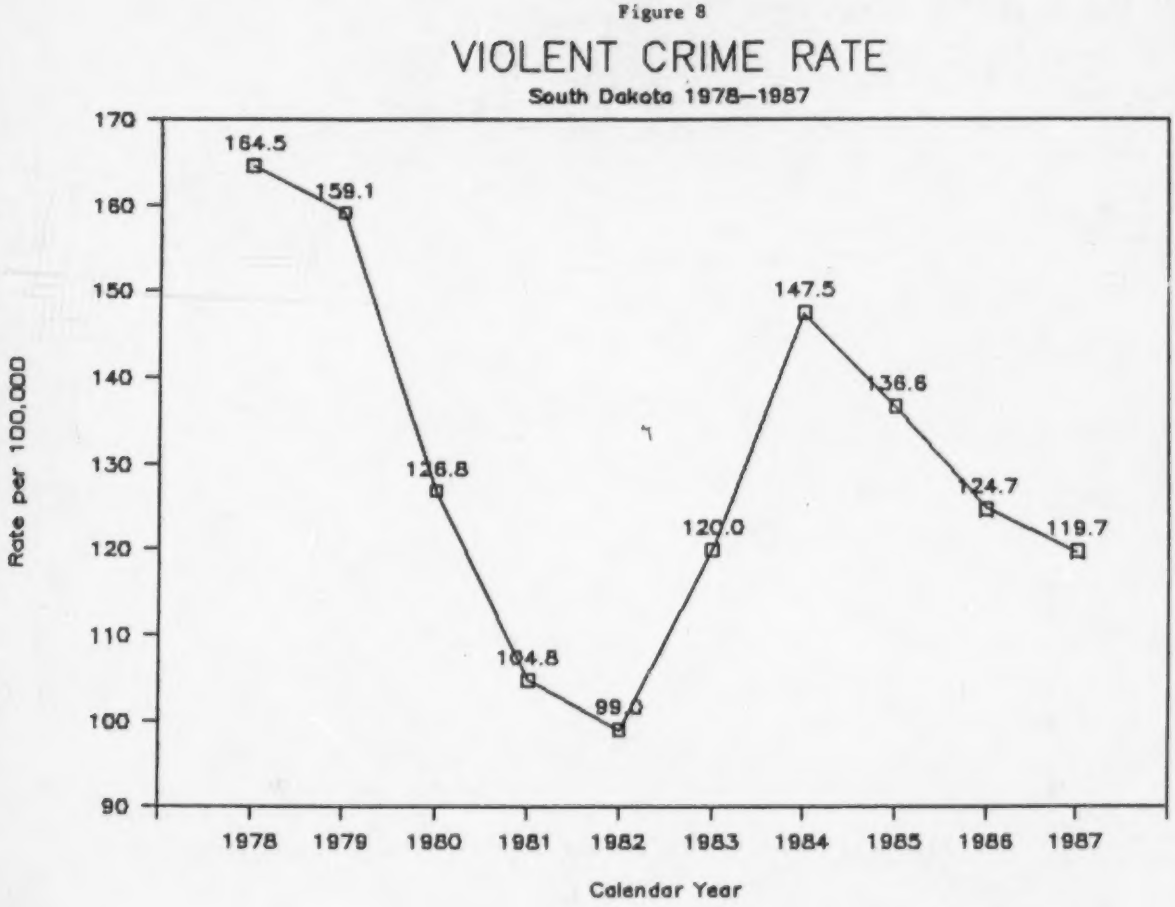

TOTAL VIOLENT CRIMES
South Dakota 1978–1987
(Thousands)
1.3
1.2
1.1
1
0.9
0.8
0.7
0.6
1,128
1,096
873
718
684
840
1,041
967
883
849
1978
1979
1980
1981
1982
1983
1984
1985
1986
1987
Calendar Year

Figure 8


VIOLENT CRIME RATE
South Dakota 1978–1987
Rate per 100,000
170
160
150
140
130
120
110
100
90
164.5
159.1
126.8
104.8
99.0
120.0
147.5
136.6
124.7
119.7
1978
1979
1980
1981
1982
1983
1984
1985
1986
1987
Calendar Year

MURDER:

> Murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, as defined in the Uniform Crime Reporting Program, is the willful (nonnegligent) killing of one human being by another. The classification of this offense, as for all other Crime Index offenses, is based solely on police investigation as opposed to the determination of a court, medical examiner, coroner, jury, or other judicial body. Not included in the count for this offense classification are deaths caused by negligence, suicide, or accident. Although man slaughter by negligence is recorded on the "offense known to police" form along with murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, it is not discussed in this report. Attempts to murder are not included in the classification of this offense, but are scored as aggravated assaults.

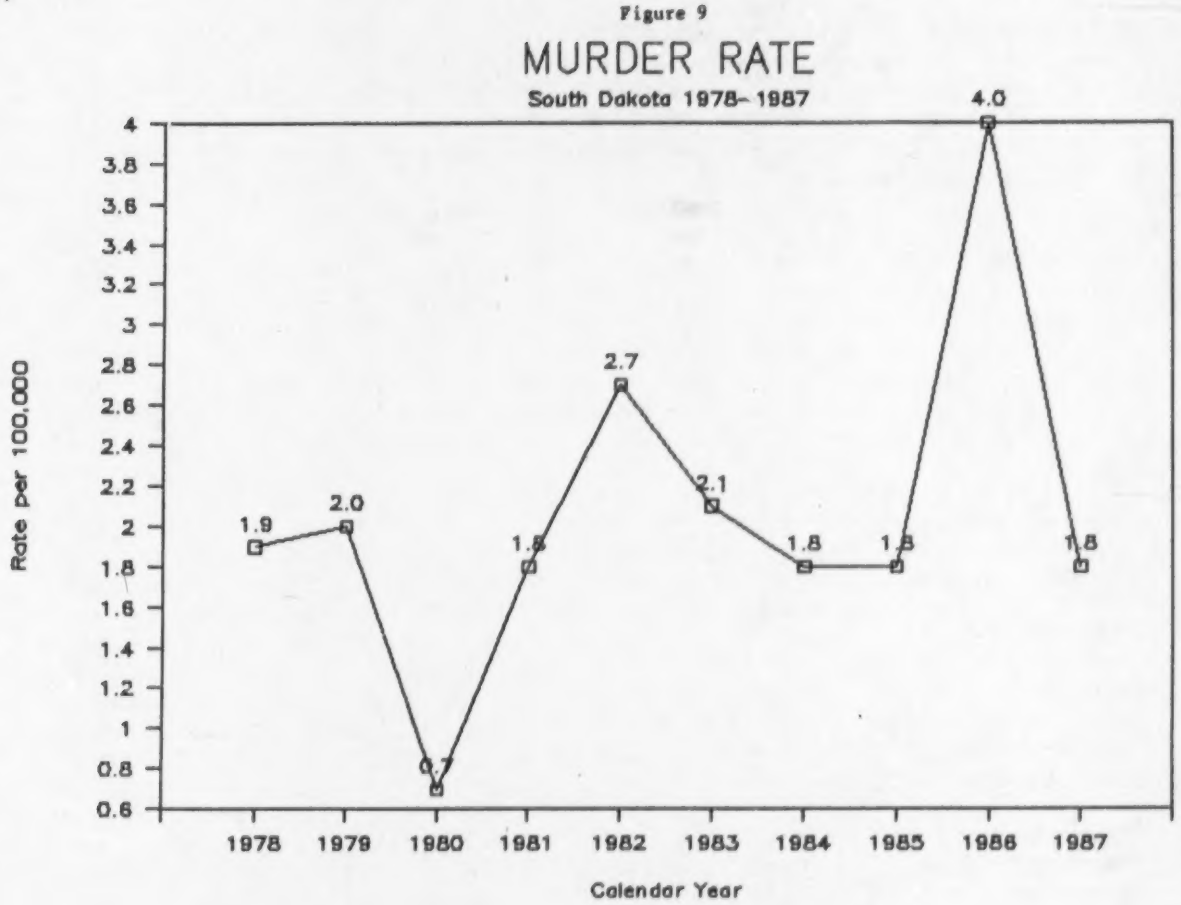
Thirteen murders were reported in South Dakota during 1987, representing less than one-tenth of a percent of the distribution of the total crime index for the state. As shown in Figure 9, the murder rate in South Dakota has remained fairly constant throughout the ten-year period studied, with three exceptions.

Murders occur relatively infrequently in South Dakota. Given the relatively low volume of this offense, modest fluctuations may result in significant percent changes. Therefore, caution is urged when interpreting any "percent change" figures.

The 1987 South Dakota murder rate of 1.8 per 100,000 was considerably lower than the national murder rate of 8.3 murders per 100,000 population.

According to national estimates, 20,096 persons were murdered in 1987. This represents an decrease of 2.5 percent over the 1987 total. FBI statistics support the philosophy that murder is primarily a societal problem over which law enforcement has little or no control. Nearly 3 of every 5 murders committed nationally in 1987 were perpetrated by relatives (16 percent) or persons acquainted with the victims (40 percent). Among all female murder victims in 1987, 29 percent were slain by husbands or boyfriends. Six percent of the male victims were killed by wives or girlfriends.

Figure 9


MURDER RATE
South Dakota 1978-1987
Rate per 100,000
4
3.8
3.6
3.4
3.2
3
2.8
2.6
2.4
2.2
2
1.8
1.6
1.4
1.2
1
0.8
0.6
1.9
2.0
0.7
1.8
2.7
2.1
1.8
1.8
4.0
1.8
1978
1979
1980
1981
1982
1983
1984
1985
1986
1987
Calendar Year

RAPE:

> Forcible rape, as defined in the UCR Program, is the carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will. Assaults or attempts to commit rape by force or threat of force are also included; however, statutory rape (without force) and other sex offenses are excluded.

Forcible rape differs from other violent crimes in that the victim in many cases, is reluctant to report the offense to police. In fact, rape is generally recognized as the most under-reported of all crimes. The investigation by police, medical examination, court procedure, and fear of any accompanying stigma have a deterrent effect on the victim's willingness to make the offense known to the police.

After two years of sharp increases in 1983 and 1984, the number of rapes dropped dramatically in 1985. The number of rapes in South Dakota continued to fall by 25.6 percent in 1986. In 1987, the rape rate was back on the increase. This is the only increase for any single offense category in the state. There were 146 rapes reported to law enforcement officials in the state in 1987, as compared to 125 reported rapes in 1986. This represents a 16.8 percent increase. These 146 rapes comprised 17.2 percent of the violent crime volume and .7 percent of the Crime Index total for South Dakota in 1987.

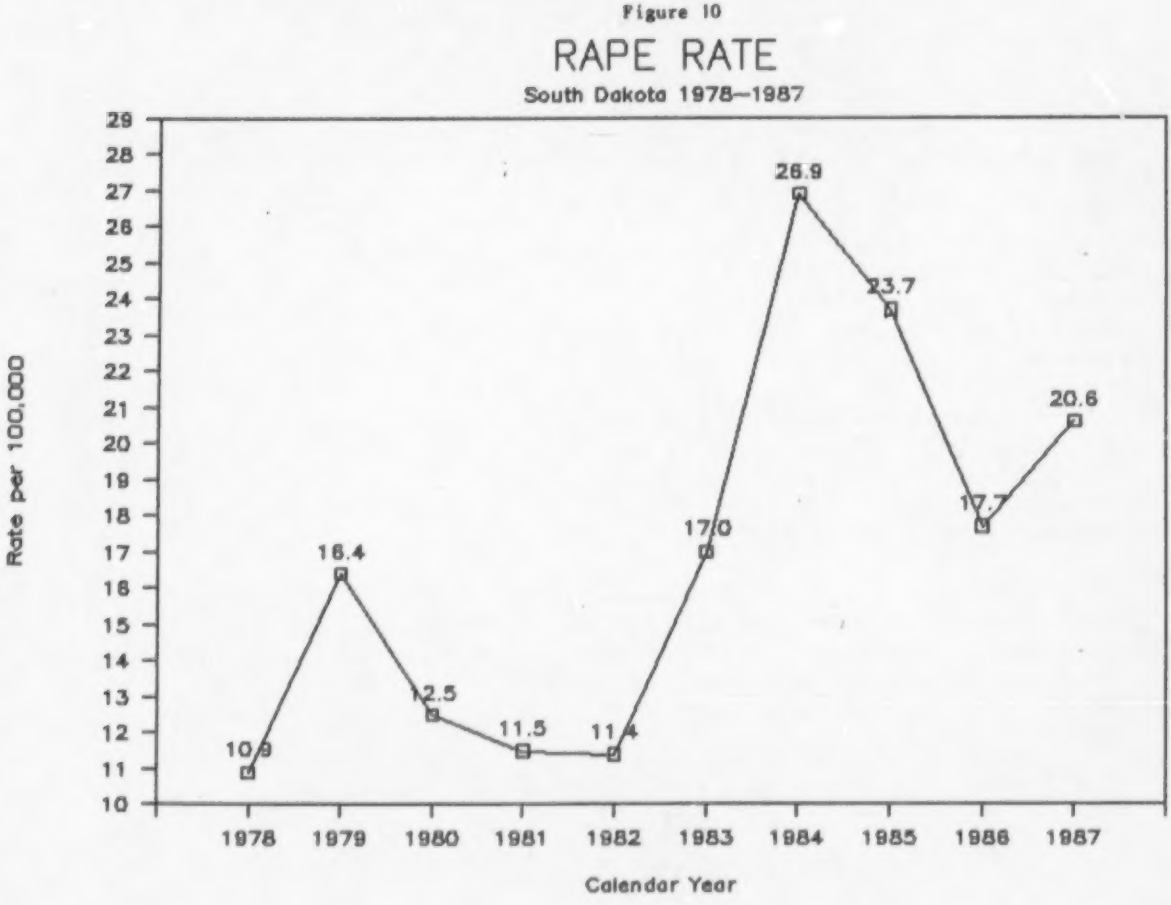
Nationwide, the number of rapes fell by 1.3 percent. An estimated 91,111 forcible rapes were reported across the country in 1987. Although rape decreased for the nation as a whole, increases in the number of rapes were experienced in twenty-two states, including South Dakota, for the year 1987.

Nationally, the rape rate per 100,000 was 37.4 in 1987. South Dakota's rape rate for the same year was well below the national average at 20.6 per 100,000 population. As shown by Figure 10, the 1987 rape rate of 20.6 was the third-highest for the ten-year period. South Dakota ranked 44th out of the 50 states in the rate of rape for 1987.

RAPE: (continued)

By Uniform Crime Reporting definitions, the victims of forcible rape are always female. With this fact in mind, a more accurate account of the true victimization rate for this offense requires excluding males from the population base figures. For 1987, it is estimated that 50.7 percent of the state population was female, a total of 359,463 persons. When males are thus excluded from the population base figure, the rate of forcible rapes climbs from 20.6 per 100,000 to 40.6 per 100,000.

Figure 10



ROBBERY:

> Robbery is the taking or attempting to take any thing of value from the care, custody, or control of a person or persons by force or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear. One robbery is counted for each operation, regardless of the number of victims present at the time.

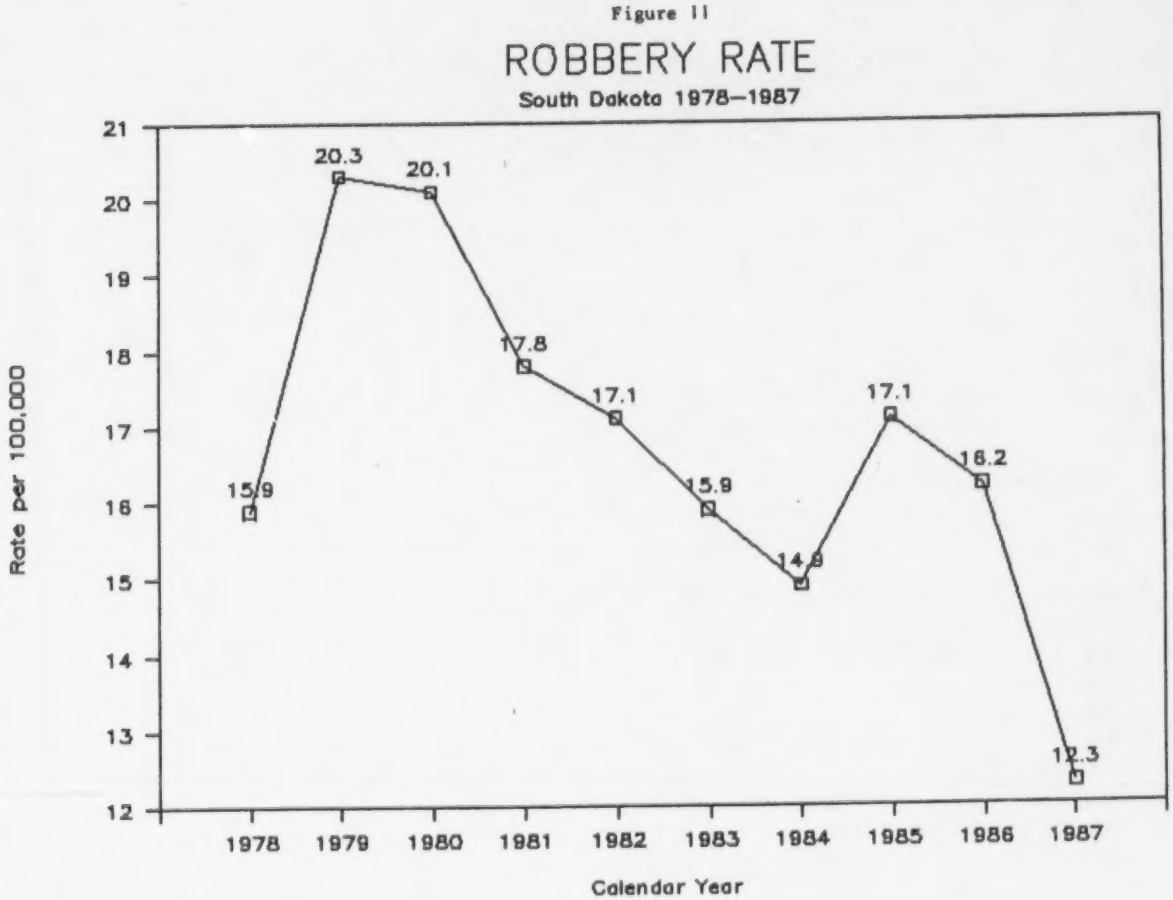
There were 87 robberies reported to South Dakota law enforcement agencies in 1987. That represented a 24.3 percent decrease from the 115 robberies reported in the state in 1986. The national experience was similar in that the total number of robberies reported in 1987 was 4.6 percent lower than the 1986 total.

Robberies accounted for a total estimated national loss of $327 million in 1987. The value of property stolen due to robberies averaged $631 per incident. Average dollar losses ranged from $292 taken during robberies of gas or service stations to $3,013 per bank robbery. The impact of this violent crime on its victims cannot be measured in terms of monetary loss alone. While the object of a robbery is to obtain money or property, the crime always involves force or threat of force, and many victims suffer serious personal injury.

The national robbery rate in 1987 was 212.7 per 100,000 population. This was significantly higher than South Dakota's rate of robbery at 12.3 per 100,000 population for the same year. In fact, South Dakota had the second-lowest robbery rate of any state in the nation.

As shown in Figure 11, the robbery rate generally has experienced a steady decline in South Dakota for the years examined. The one notable exception was in 1985 when the robbery rate increased to 17.1 per 100,000. The year 1987 shows the lowest robbery rate per 100,000 in the past 10 years.

Figure 11


ROBBERY RATE
South Dakota 1978–1987
Rate per 100,000
21
20
19
18
17
16
15
14
13
12
20.3
20.1
17.8
17.1
15.9
14.9
17.1
16.2
12.3
1978
1979
1980
1981
1982
1983
1984
1985
1986
1987
Calendar Year

AGGRAVATED ASSAULT:

> Aggravated assault is an unlawful attack by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury. This type of assault is usually accompanied by the use of a weapon or by means likely to produce death or great bodily harm. Attempts are included since it is not necessary that an injury result when a gun, knife, or other weapon is used which could and probably would result in serious personal injury if the crime were successfully completed. One offense is counted for each victim of aggravated assault.

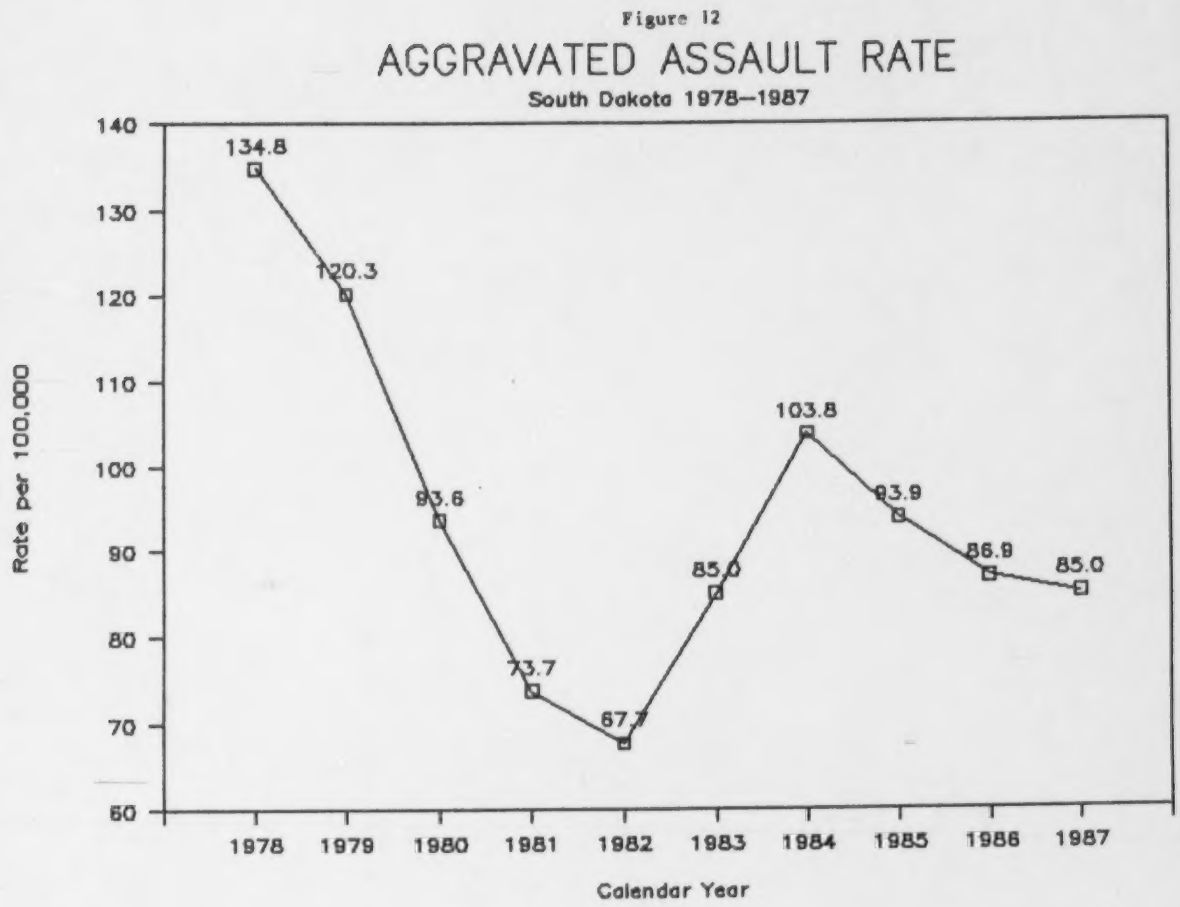
There were 603 aggravated assaults reported to South Dakota law enforcement agencies in 1987. That was a 2.0 percent decrease over the 1986 figure of 615 assaults. The nation experienced the reverse trend for aggravated assaults. Numbering an estimated 855,088 nationally in 1987, the number of aggravated assaults rose by 2.5 percent.

Aggravated assaults were the most common offense reported within the category of violent crimes. Nearly three-fourths (71 percent) of all violent crimes in South Dakota for the year 1987 were aggravated assaults.

The South Dakota aggravated assault rate of 85.0 per 100,000 was substantially lower than the national average of 351.3 aggravated assaults per 100,000 population. In fact, South Dakota ranked 48th in the nation for the aggravated assault rate.

As shown in Figure 12, the rate of aggravated assaults in the state is still on the decline after three years of fairly sharp increases in 1983 and 1984.

Figure 12


AGGRAVATED ASSAULT RATE
South Dakota 1978–1987
Rate per 100,000
140
130
120
110
100
90
80
70
60
134.8
120.3
93.6
73.7
67.7
85.0
103.8
93.9
86.9
85.0
1978
1979
1980
1981
1982
1983
1984
1985
1986
1987
Calendar Year

PROPERTY

CRIME

PROPERTY CRIME:

For UCR purposes, Property Crime consists of the sum total of burglaries, larcenies, and motor vehicle thefts reported to law enforcement. While these offenses generally do not involve personal danger to the victim, the value of property lost in these crimes is many times greater than in violent crimes. Generally, one property crime is counted for each act or operation.

18,138 property crimes were reported to law enforcement agencies in South Dakota in 1987. That represented a 1.1 percent decrease over the 18,346 property crimes reported in 1986 (see Figure 13). Nationally, approximately 12 million property crimes were reported to law enforcement agencies, an increase of 2.6 percent from the previous year.

The 1987 property crime rate of 2,558.3 meant that 2,558 crimes against property were committed against every 100,000 persons in South Dakota (Figure 14). South Dakota's rate of property crime was the second lowest in the nation, only above that of West Virginia. The national rate of property crime was 4,940.3 per 100,000.

Total property crimes were down 1.1 percent for the state in 1987. The number of burglaries decreased by 3.4 percent. Larceny/thefts were down by .4 percent while motor vehicle thefts decreased 3.0 percent for the period.

Figure 13

TOTAL PROPERTY CRIMES

South Dakota 1978–1987

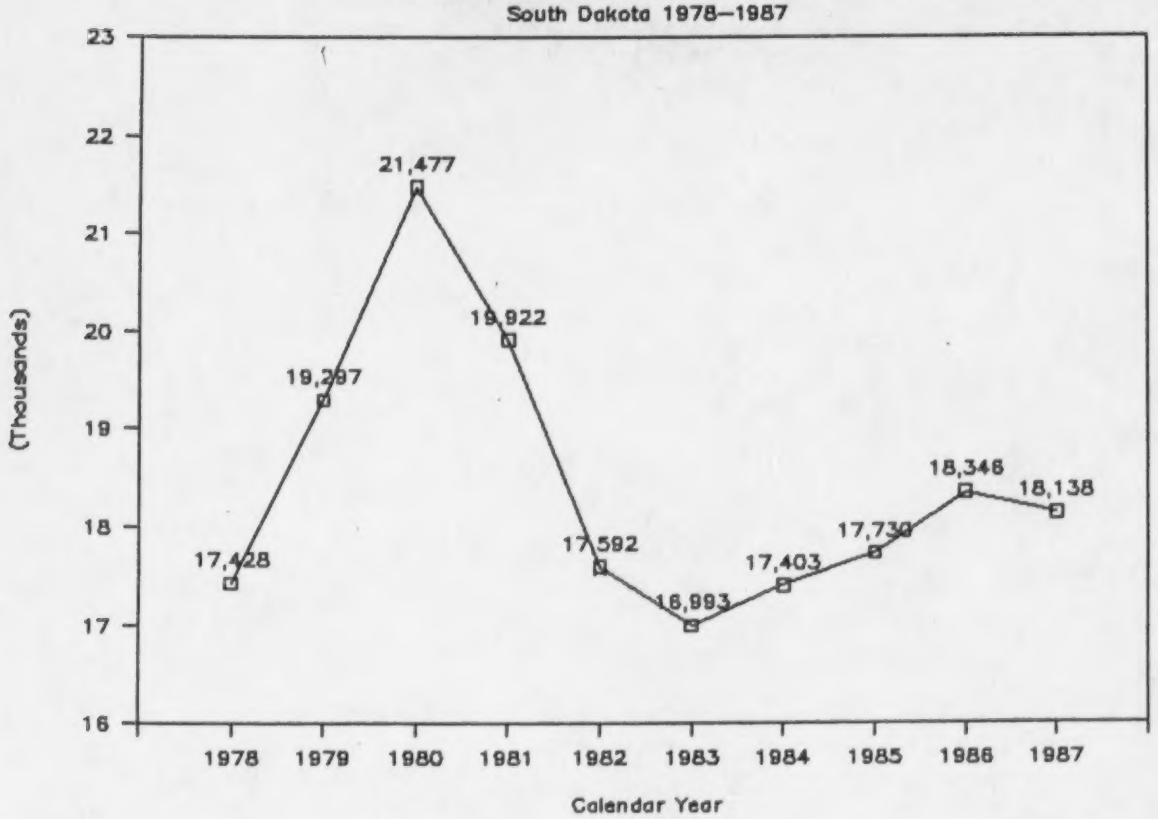
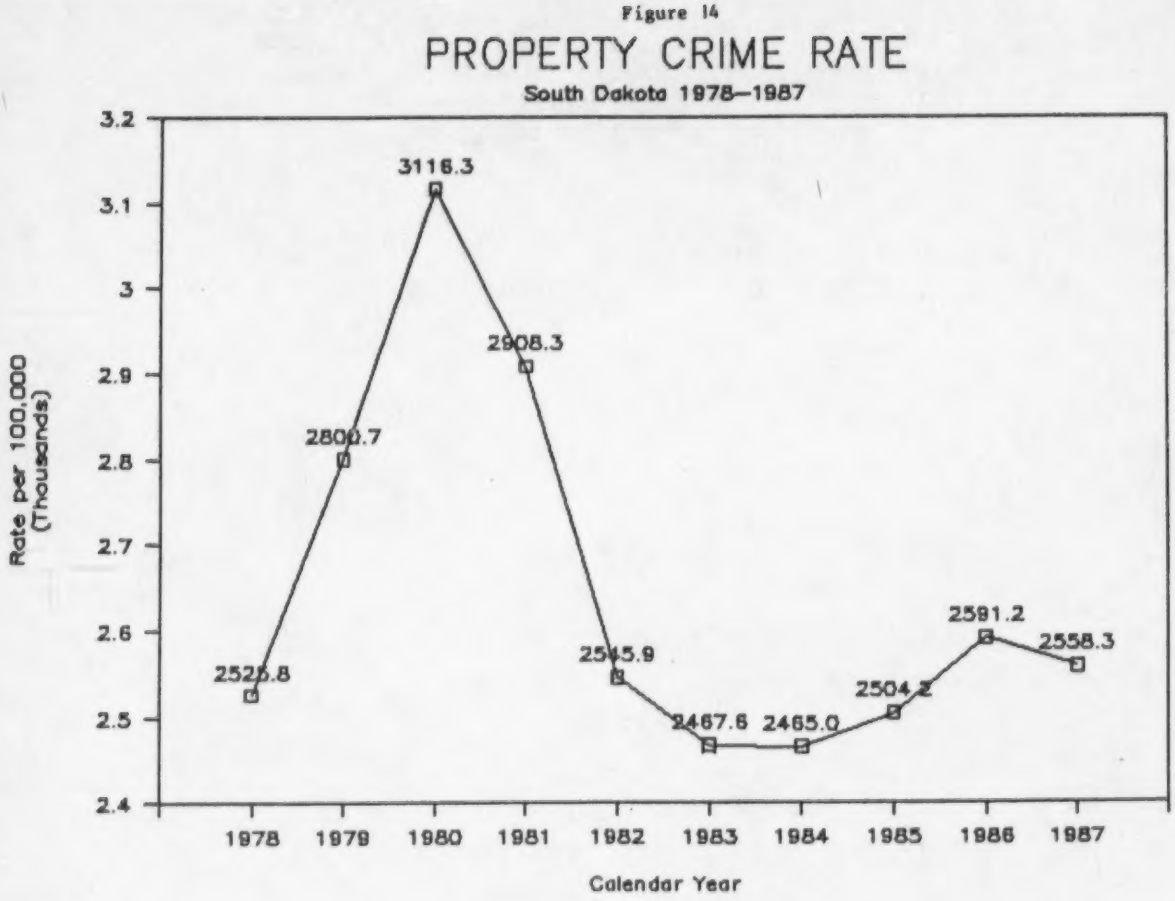


Figure 14


PROPERTY CRIME RATE
South Dakota 1978—1987
Rate per 100,000 (Thousands)
3.2
3.1
3
2.9
2.8
2.7
2.6
2.5
2.4
3116.3
2908.3
2800.7
2591.2
2558.3
2545.9
2526.8
2504.2
2467.6
2465.0
1978
1979
1980
1981
1982
1983
1984
1985
1986
1987
Calendar Year

BURGLARY:

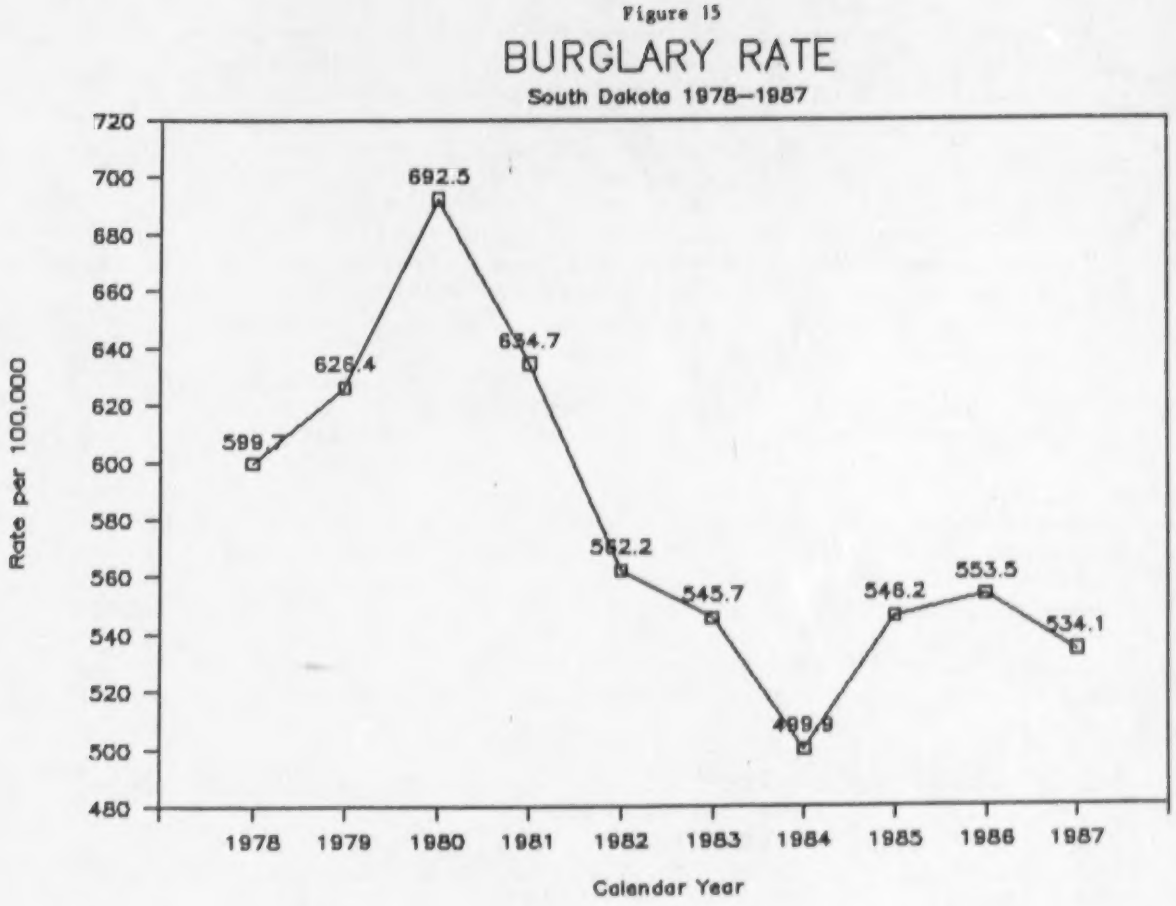
> The Uniform Crime Reporting Program defines burglary as the unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or theft. It is not necessary that force be used in gaining entry in order for the crime to be counted in this category. Attempts to unlawfully enter a structure are also counted. Burglary, in the UCR Program, is categorized into three subclassifications: forcible entry, unlawful entry where no force is used, and attempted forcible entry. One offense is counted for each distinct operation.

Burglary is on the decline in South Dakota. There were 3,787 burglaries reported to law enforcement officials in South Dakota in 1987, representing an decrease of 3.4 percent from the 3,919 burglaries reported in 1986. The state's downward trend for burglary was also reflected in the national statistics. Burglary was down nationwide by .2 percent in 1987.

The national average burglary rate was 1,329.6 per 100,000 population for 1987. South Dakota ranked 49th among the 50 states with a 1987 burglary rate of 534.1 per 100,000.

As depicted in Figure 15, the burglary rate in South Dakota is, once again, on the decline. After reaching a ten-year low in 1984, the burglary rate increased for two years. However, the 1987 rate of 534.1 per 100,000 was the second-lowest the burglary rate has been in the ten-year period studied.

Figure 15


BURGLARY RATE
South Dakota 1978–1987
Rate per 100,000
720
700
680
660
640
620
600
580
560
540
520
500
480
692.5
634.7
626.4
599.7
562.2
553.5
548.2
545.7
534.1
499.9
1978
1979
1980
1981
1982
1983
1984
1985
1986
1987
Calendar Year

LARCENY/THEFT:

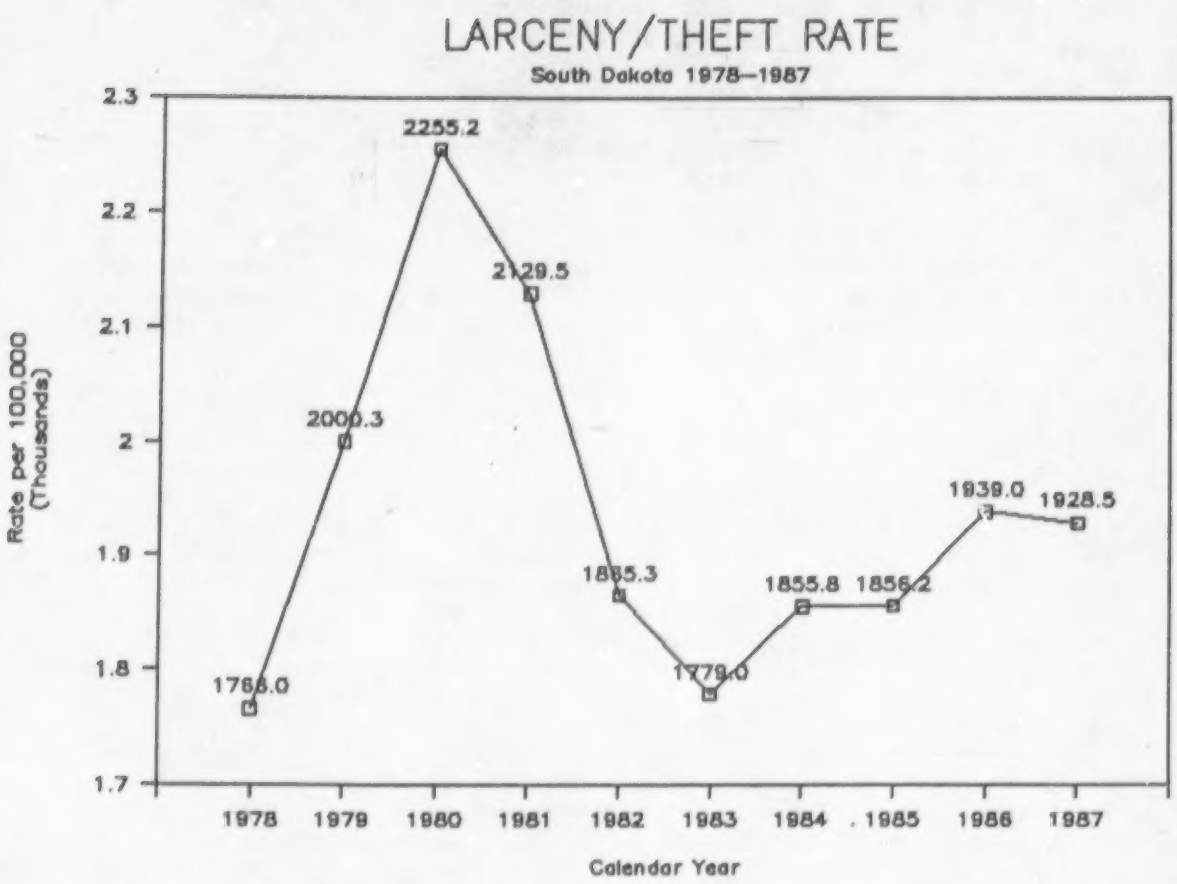
> Larceny/theft is the unlawful taking, carrying, leading or riding away of the property from the possession or constructive possession of another. It includes crimes such as shoplifting, pocket-picking, purse-snatching, thefts from motor vehicles, thefts of motor vehicle parts and accessories, bicycle thefts, etc., in which no use of force, violence, or fraud occurs. In the Uniform Crime Reporting Program, this crime category does not include embezzlement, "con" games, forgery, and worthless checks. Motor vehicle theft is also excluded from this category inasmuch as it is a separate Crime Index offense. One offense is counted for each distinct operation, regardless of the number of victims.

Seventy-two percent of all index crimes in South Dakota in 1987 were counted as larceny/thefts. There were 13,673 thefts reported to South Dakota law enforcement agencies in 1987, representing a decrease of .4 percent over the 13,728 thefts reported in 1986. An estimated 7,499,851 larceny/theft offenses occurred nationally during 1987, an increase of 3.3 percent when compared to the previous year's experience.

South Dakota ranked 46th in the nation for its theft rate, which stood at 1,928.5 per 100,000 in 1987. That was substantially lower than the national average larceny/theft rate which was 3,081.3 per 100,000 population for the same year.

After a high of 2,255.2 larceny/thefts in South Dakota in 1980, the larceny/theft rate dropped by a total of 21.1 percent in the next three years (see Figure 16). The year 1984 ended the downward trend of the larceny/theft rate with the 4.3 percent increase in the rate. The slight increase of the larceny-theft rate again in 1985 continued this upward trend. The 4.5 percent increase in 1986 made it the highest larceny/theft rate in the past 5 years. In 1987, the rate decreased again to 1928.5 per 100,000. Since larceny/theft represents the bulk of all Index offenses, the ten-year trend experienced by the Crime Index as a whole is directly influenced by the trend larceny/theft takes, and when compared, very similar patterns emerge (see Figures 3 and 16).

Figure 16


LARCENY/THEFT RATE
South Dakota 1978–1987
Rate per 100,000 (Thousands)
2.3
2.2
2.1
2
1.9
1.8
1.7
2255.2
2129.5
2000.3
1939.0
1928.5
1885.3
1855.8
1856.2
1779.0
1978
1979
1980
1981
1982
1983
1984
1985
1986
1987
Calendar Year

MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT:

> Defined as the theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle, this offense category includes the stealing of automobiles, trucks, buses, motorcycles, motorscooters, snowmobiles, etc. The definition excludes the taking of a motor vehicle for temporary use by those persons having lawful access.

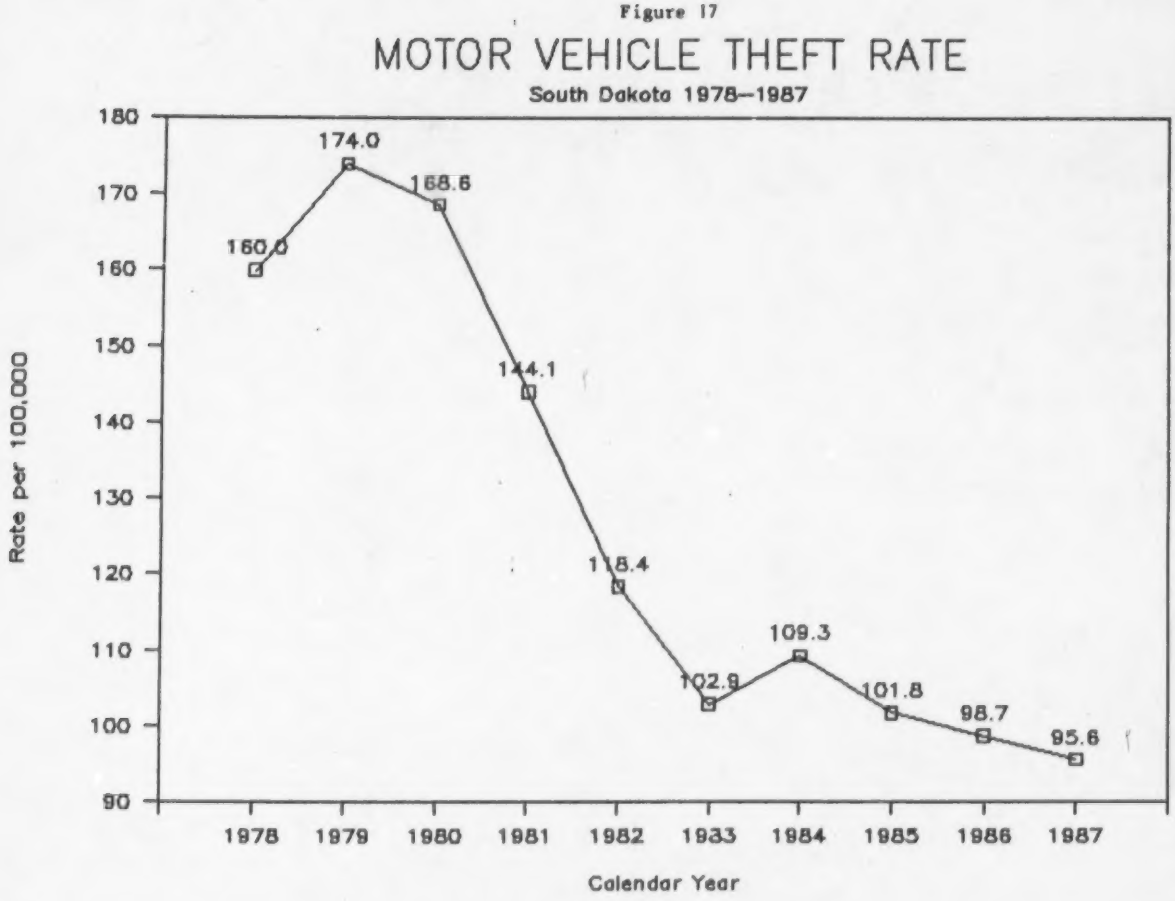
There were 678 motor vehicles reported stolen to law enforcement agencies in South Dakota in 1987, representing a 3.0 percent decrease from the 699 motor vehicles stolen in the state for 1986. Nationally, motor vehicle theft rose by 5.3 percent from 1986 to 1987.

Motor vehicle thefts in 1987 numbered an estimated 1,288,674 offenses nationwide, comprising 9.5 percent of all Index Crimes for the country. In 1987, an estimated average of 1 of every 144 registered motor vehicles was stolen nationwide. An estimated national loss of over $6 billion in 1987 was due to motor vehicle theft. At the time of the theft, the average value per vehicle stolen was $4,964.

The national average motor vehicle theft rate was at 529.4 per 100,000 population for 1987. South Dakota's rate of 95.6 per 100,000 was the lowest motor vehicle theft rate of all the states in the nation.

As shown by Figure 17, South Dakota's motor vehicle theft rate showed rapid decline from the high of 174.0 in 1979 to the low of 95.6 in 1987, with the exception of a slight increase experienced in 1984. The 1987 rate of 95.6 stolen motor vehicles per 100,000 population was the lowest recorded rate for the ten-year period.

Figure 17


MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT RATE
South Dakota 1978–1987
Rate per 100,000
180
170
160
150
140
130
120
110
100
90
174.0
168.6
160.0
144.1
118.4
109.3
102.8
101.8
98.7
95.6
1978
1979
1980
1981
1982
1983
1984
1985
1986
1987
Calendar Year

CRIME

IN

SOUTH DAKOTA

CITIES

South Dakota Cities:

The Uniform Crime Reporting Program analyzes separately the Part I offenses in the cities of the state with a population of 10,000 and over. Data are presented for the eight cities of Aberdeen, Brookings, Huron, Mitchell, Rapid City, Sioux Falls, Watertown, and Yankton.

Rapid City had the highest crime rate of the eight South Dakota cities reporting their UCR Part I offenses in 1987 (see Figures 18 and 19). Although Sioux Falls reported more crimes, Rapid City's ratio of crime to population was higher. Rapid City had a crime rate of 7,313.6 per 100,000 population while reporting 3,848 Index offenses in 1987. Sioux Falls had a crime rate of 4,265.0 per 100,000 with 4,163 Index crimes reported.

The estimated combined population of the ten cities totalled 245,042 people in 1987. The total number of Index crimes reported in these cities was 12,167 for the same year. Therefore, these eight cities comprised 34.6 percent of the state's population in 1987 while 64.1 percent of the total number of crimes were reported in these "urban" areas.

It is interesting to note that all of the larger cities participating in the UCR Program had higher crime rates than the average South Dakota crime rate (Figure 20), which was at 2,678.0 per 100,000 in 1987. The mean South Dakota urban crime rate, the average for the eight cities, was 4,965.3 for 1987. That was still lower than the nation's overall crime rate.

Two of the cities, Mitchell and Rapid City, had a higher crime rate than the national average in 1987. The national average was 5,550.0 crimes per 100,000 population. Mitchell reported 6,510.4 crimes per 100,000 population, and Rapid City reported a crime rate of 7,313.6 per 100,000.

Crime dropped in five of the eight largest cities in South Dakota from 1986 to 1987. Aberdeen, Mitchell, Rapid City, Sioux Falls and Yankton experienced decreases in the number of index crimes reported. Crime increased from the previous year in Brookings, Huron and Watertown.

Figure 18

CRIME RATES AND NUMBERS IN
SOUTH DAKOTA CITIES, 1987

	POPULATION	TOTAL CRIME INDEX NUMBER	TOTAL CRIME INDEX RATE
Aberdeen	25,735	1,165	4,526.9
Brookings	14,838	523	3,524.7
Huron	12,271	447	3,642.7
Mitchell	13,655	889	6,510.4
Rapid City	52,614	3,848	7,313.6
Sioux Falls	97,608	4,163	4,265.0
Watertown	16,712	690	4,128.8
Yankton	11,609	442	3,807.4

Figure 19

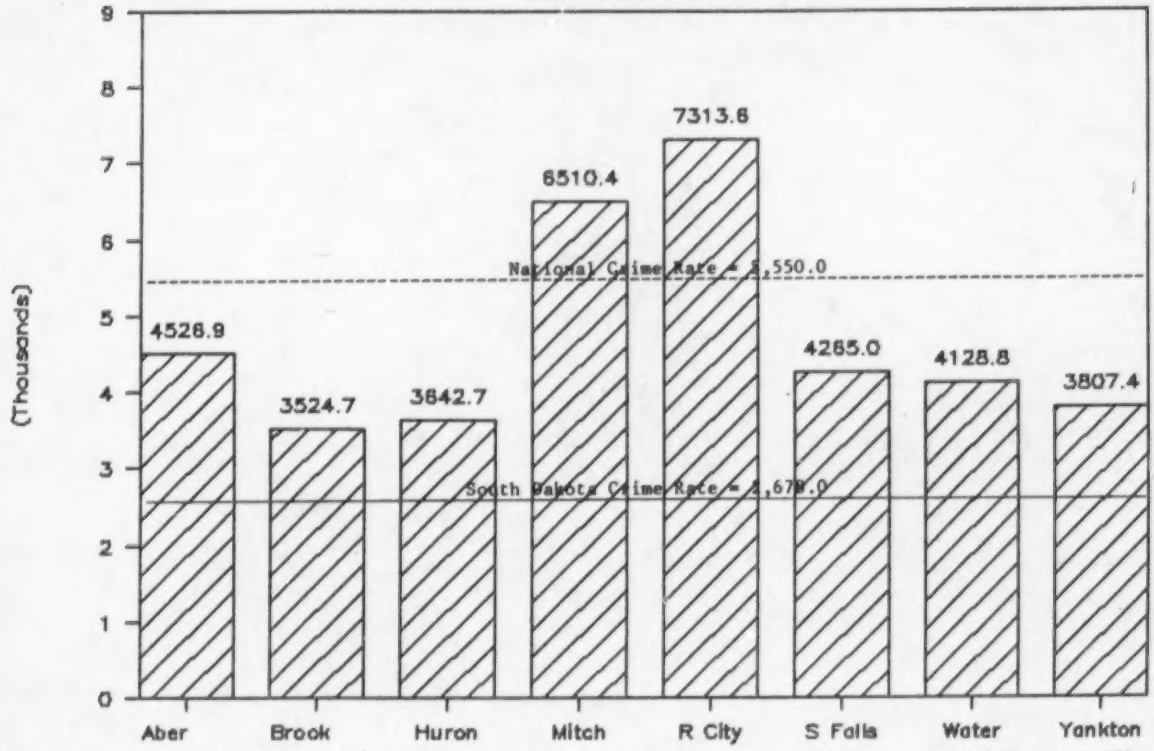
CRIME IN SOUTH DAKOTA CITIES, 1987

	POPULATION	CRIME INDEX TOTAL	MURDER	RAPE	ROBBERY	AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	BURGLARY	LARCENY/ THEFT	MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT
Aberdeen	25,735	1,165	--	9	2	22	154	937	41
Brookings	14,838	523	--	--	2	5	61	424	31
Huron	12,271	447	1	1	--	4	83	333	25
Mitchell	13,655	889	--	1	3	19	217	632	17
Rapid City	52,614	3,848	1	47	29	168	612	2,840	151
Sioux Falls	97,608	4,163	1	39	32	129	780	3,045	137
Watertown	16,712	690	1	4	1	13	99	556	16
Yankton	11,609	442	--	5	2	6	56	358	15

Figure 20

SOUTH DAKOTA CITIES

Crime Rates for 1987



	Aber	Brook	Huron	Mitch	R City	S Falls	Water	Yankton
Population	25,735	14,838	12,271	13,655	52,614	97,608	16,712	11,609
No. of Index Crimes	1,165	523	447	889	3,848	4,163	690	442